

the business affairs of the Association by its House of Delegates. The whole animal kingdom offers but one example of intelligence so benighted as that which seems to be governing the majority of the medical (?) press of this country; one can but think of the cute little ostrich, with his dainty little head nicely buried in the sand. The handwriting is on the wall for him to read who will; so long as there remains even one medical journal in this country which will freely and fearlessly tell the truth and flay the hide off the dishonest manufacturer of dishonest nostrums, so long will there be betterment and so much the sooner will come the day when medical men will refuse to be buncoed and refuse to contribute to the support of medical (?) journals which exist for revenue first and for medical progress and decency afterward—if they have time and space. A few there are who seem to appreciate this fact and to see the trend of medical movement of the day, and they are beginning to side with the Association and its *Journal*, and with some of the State Journals, in the publishing of the truth and the dropping out of fraudulent, worthless or dangerous nostrum advertisements. In passing, one must commend the *Medical World*, of Philadelphia, for the manner in which it has taken the right side in our present "gentle and joyous contest." As the frauds are exposed by the *Journal A. M. A.*, the expose is reprinted in the *Medical World* and the advertisements are dropped; if some of the official publications of state medical organizations would do half as much, it would be a mighty good thing. And by-the-by, it is an unpleasant truth, but none the less a truth, that, until very recently, one of the State Journals enjoyed the peculiar distinction of being the only journal published which contained the advertisement of every one of the frauds which had been specifically unmasked by the *Journal A. M. A.*

At the present time there are a few things advertised in your JOURNAL which have not been approved by the Council. They were accepted before there was any Council to give us aid and assistance in discriminating against advertisers who should not receive recognition. We have desired to give all of these ample opportunity to submit their preparations to the Council and to conform to its rules—rules which are carefully framed and, if anything, are not sufficiently rigid to exclude all the things which should be excluded; but this will correct itself in the course of time. Most of the things that you will find in our advertising pages and which have not been approved by the Council, make greatly exaggerated statements about themselves; some contain on the label of the original package a list of diseases for which the remedy is to be used, and hence are objectionable for the reason that they tend to stimulate self-medication, a dangerous practice. So far as we are aware, there is no definitely known fake or fraudulent nostrum now being advertised by your JOURNAL; as

such have been found out, they have been thrown out of the advertising pages. Please, just remember a few things: Your JOURNAL was the first in this country that made a really honest and consistent effort to exclude advertisements of fraudulent nostrums; occasionally the Publication Committee was fooled, but the fraud was thrown out as soon as discovered. (As witness urisepin, vin Mariani—which claimed to contain no cocaine—Tyree's powder, etc.) Since the Council was formed and got to work, we have accepted the advertisement of no preparation which has not been approved by that body, though we have been offered many pages of such advertising. We do not desire to be hasty or unjust, and consequently we have endeavored to give all of our advertisers every opportunity and all the time possible, to comply with the just demands of the Council. We think two years is plenty of time—especially in this rapid century—and by the first of next year they will all have had that much time, and then, if they have not been approved by the Council, we will part company. That the rules of the Council are just and moderate, we believe any intelligent physician will admit after giving the matter a little careful thought. If you doubt it, just look at the label on a bottle of glyco-thymoline, for instance, and then honestly say whether a thing of that kind should be permitted. The label is evidently intended to appeal directly to the public and to teach them to believe that a simple alkaline wash will perform wonderful cures in all sorts of impossible conditions. Is that right?

One very pleasant and exceedingly profitable evening was spent, at Atlantic City, at a meeting, about the dinner table, of some eighteen or twenty secretaries of state medical societies. The idea was certainly

an excellent one, and steps have been taken to make such a gathering a permanent feature of the meetings of the American Medical Association. Each state should send its secretary to these meetings, and, if possible, he should go as a delegate and thus officially represent his state in the national organization. At any rate, he should be there and attend a meeting of state society secretaries. Probably no person present at the meeting at Atlantic City left the room without having acquired some very good ideas and suggestions from his fellows, and there is little doubt that all the states represented at that meeting will benefit from the suggestions of others and the statements as to successful work, possibly done better in some other state than at home. The spirit of the present organization of the medical profession is unique. It is not the labor union spirit of merely personal and material benefit; it is a spirit of personal uplifting, of personal education, of personal improvement in all those things which go to make a man a better physician and a better guardian of the sick in his charge. In so far even as our activities have been along the line of medical economics and have dealt

with contract practice, lodge work, insurance fees, etc., the movement has been for the general public betterment more than for the betterment of the individual. A poorly supported doctor is generally one who can not keep up to date in mental equipment or in instrumental armamentarium, and the patients of that man will suffer. If all can be brought into closer harmony, and the public once shown that a well supported medical profession is a good investment from the purely selfish and commercial side, there will be mighty little talk of "labor union" methods—except on the part of those within the profession to whose interest it is that physicians shall remain ignorant and shall really think as little as possible. And this very work of organization for mental betterment can be and will be tremendously helped by the annual meeting together of the secretaries of state societies. We consider it one of the most important movements that has originated within a number of years.

In the March issue of your JOURNAL appeared the following:

SHALL IT BE which you do not find in the
A BOYCOTT? list of New and Non-Official
Remedies as issued by the
Council (on Pharmacy and Chemistry) is one
to look upon with suspicion; it may be a legitimate product, but the chances are that it is not, or that the proprietors have uttered exaggerated statements as to its value."

My! my! But that does seem to have stirred up a lot of people! In the JOURNAL office there is a stack of medical (?) journals nearly a foot high, each of which contains some editorial spasm over this pronouncement. And the choice language! Really, the adjectives used are enough to make any man with a modest vocabulary turn green—or pink—with envy. Yet that is just exactly what we said and exactly what we meant, and exactly what we intend to say—and to mean—again. Furthermore, it is exactly what a very large number of medical men are beginning to see is the truth, and when once the general run of physicians see what the truth really is, Heaven help the medical (?) journals that try to fight against it. The nostrum maker and the medical (?) journals which he controls, have fooled all physicians part of the time; they may continue to fool some physicians all the time, but they can not continue to fool all physicians all the time, for some there are who are waking up to the foolish position into which they have been fooled by the "secret proprietary" man and his all too willing tool, the medical (?) journal. Do not let all the words which may be used to befog the issue, disturb you; do not let all the lovely adjectives that may be applied to your JOURNAL or its editor, disturb your peace of mind; it—your JOURNAL—has been pretty well guided by your Publication Committee, and he—your editor—has developed such a continuous coating of callous places that a few words really do not create any unpleasant sensations. Just remember that the Coun-

cil is trying to secure an honest statement as to composition, so that you may know exactly what you are giving your patient; and truthful statements regarding the merits of various preparations, so that you may not be fooled all the time. Is it not worth while to give the Council your support when such simple things as truth and honesty are the results striven for?

ISCHEMIC PARALYSIS AND CONTRACTURE, WITH A REPORT OF A CASE TREATED BY BONE SHORTENING.*

By THOMAS W. HUNTINGTON, M. D., San Francisco.

The purpose of this paper is to describe and emphasize the importance of a lesion or associated lesions which are a consequence of injuries of the arm and forearm—the condition known as "Volkman's Contracture of the Hand and Fingers" or "Ischemic Muscular Atrophy," "Contractures and Paralysis."

About thirty years ago Volkman described this deformity and gave it its true place in surgical literature from the standpoint of causation and seriousness. Prior to this time it had been observed that hopeless deformity and loss of function now and then followed what seemed to be comparatively trivial injuries, such as simple fractures of one or both bones of the forearm, fractures and dislocations at the elbow, and fractures of the shaft of the humerus. The exact relation between such injuries and the consequent deformity and loss of function seems not to have been traced before Volkman's time. In later years, from time to time, attention has been called to this class of lesions by various authors, although in few of our text-books on surgery is there anything more than a passing allusion to the subject. In his classical Hunterian lecture upon deformities of fingers and toes, William Anderson, in 1891, after recounting the causes of this condition, says: "It is a reproach to surgery." When it is considered that in all or nearly all the recorded cases the fault is unmistakably traceable to vicious adjustment of splints and over-tight, long-continued bandaging, the force of Anderson's remark is obvious.

Ischemic contracture and paralysis resulting in the so-called Main-de-Griffe, as has already been intimated, follows usually fractures of the forearm in children and young adults. In a few cases ischemic lesions have resulted from embolism, thrombosis, traumatism affecting vessels or nerves and exposure to extreme cold. Were the deformity and its usual cause better understood by the general profession, it is probable that the occurrence of such cases would be extremely rare and would never be chargeable to the dereliction of the attendant. The deformity follows in most cases lines which are typical and the observation of a single case renders the detection of others well-nigh certain.

The significant features may be enumerated somewhat as follows: Usually one or more scars of old pressure sores are observed on either side of the fore-

* Read before the California Academy of Medicine.